



STATEMENT REGARDING
House Bill 6187: An Act Mandating Employers Provide
Paid Sick Leave to Employees

Labor and Public Employees Committee
February 24th, 2009

The MetroHartford Alliance is Hartford's Chamber of Commerce and the region's economic development leader. Our investors include businesses of all sizes, health care providers, institutions of higher education, and 34 municipalities. The Alliance's mission is to ensure that the Hartford Region competes aggressively and successfully for jobs, talent and capital so that it thrives as one of the country's premier places for all people to live, work, play, and raise a family.

House Bill 6187 runs directly counter to our organization's efforts to make Connecticut a more business friendly, pro-growth state. In the current economic climate, when businesses and non-profit institutions are struggling to survive, it is not the time to implement a new, costly mandate. Specifically, this legislation impacts educational institutions, non-profits and small businesses of 50 employees or more who are paid on an hourly basis. In addition, this measure allows employees to carry over up to fifty-two hours of sick time to subsequent years, which is not fiscally prudent for many employers, particularly our small and mid-size investors who contribute greatly to the economic vitality of our communities and neighborhoods. For employers in seasonal industries, those that rely on part-time and temporary employees, this type of legislation will ultimately increase the cost of keeping the doors open.

It is important to note that no other state in the nation has passed legislation comparable to House Bill 6187. In fact, the Family and Medical Leave Act

already provides for time to be taken in the case of family illness, personal illness, care of relatives and other reasons related to personal illness without fear of dismissal or demotion. Additionally, most Connecticut employers already accommodate their workers with time off for illness. Connecticut is already one of the most costly states in the nation to do business, and this legislation would only further decrease our ability to be competitive in an unstable marketplace.

At this time of intense global competition for jobs, capital and talent, it is important for us to begin to implement an aggressive strategy to attract *new* jobs and investment to our cities and our state, while also retaining the jobs we are fortunate to have. As an economic development organization and the capital city's chamber of commerce, we ask that you consider the *highly* anti-competitive implications that proposals such as House Bill 6187, even at the committee level, have on our collective efforts to grow jobs and to retain and recruit talent. We ask you to work with us to help Connecticut stand out as a premier place to do business and create jobs, not help Connecticut stand out as the first in the nation to place this type of burden on employers.

For these reasons, we are opposed to House Bill 6187